



Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage Activities April 5th - 7th

Welcome to Fall Creek Falls' Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage! Spring is here and the park is bursting with new life. The trees are budding and the wildflowers are starting to bloom, dotting the landscape with delightful hues of pastel colors. It's a great time to enjoy some hiking, picnicking, boating, and wildlife watching while taking in the beautiful scenery. We encourage you to take advantage of the programs we have arranged for your enjoyment and enlightenment.

***A parent or guardian must accompany youngsters 12 years old and younger.**

Stuart Carroll – Interpretive Specialist III
Matt Brown – Park Ranger II
Jon Morris – Park Naturalist

Friday, April 5th

6:00pm

Welcome to Wildflower Weekend – While you are enjoying the seafood buffet at the Inn, be sure to stop by the lobby to talk to Ranger Matt about the park and the rest of the weekend's events. There will be a rolling slide show of some of the area's wildflowers in the lobby for you to enjoy while you enter and exit the Inn as well.

8:00pm

Evening Nature Ramble – Meet Ranger Matt at the Campers' Check-In for a nature walk around the golf course. This is the peak time to see some of the park's nightlife like deer, raccoons, frogs, etc. If it's clear, we may look at a star or two as well.

Saturday, April 6th

The programs taking place at 9:30am, 10:45am, and 1:30pm occur in the same vicinity with minimal driving distance between them. Be sure to pack lunch if you wish to stay for all 3 programs. For directions to parking areas, please ask your program guide.

9:00am

Prater Place Hike – Meet Ranger Matt at the Nature Center for a short drive to the Prater Place trailhead. Carpooling is recommended. This is a 6-mile roundtrip hike on a new trail in Camps Gulf. The trail ends at the small but beautiful Hemlock Falls near the old Prater homestead. Wildflowers are abundant in Camps Gulf so be sure to bring a camera, water, and sturdy hiking shoes.

- 9:30am **Wildflower Photography** – Meet local photographer Anthony Ladd at the Nature Center for a short drive to the Crusher Hole. Carpooling is recommended. While at this wildflower hotspot, Anthony will lead a hands-on photography session. The Crusher Hole area has an abundance of wildflowers so don't miss out on this photography session.
- 10:00am **Plant/Tree ID Walk** – Meet Jon at the Nature Center to go on a short walk around the area. Along the way, we will discuss plant and tree identification techniques, as well as their role in nature and with man.
- 10:45am **Wildflower Ramble at Camps Branch and Crusher Hole** – Meet Stuart at the Nature Center for a short drive to the Camps Branch and Crusher Hole areas. Carpooling is recommended. From there we will go on a leisurely walk to view the wildflowers in these 2 areas. Don't forget to bring your field guides.
- 1:30pm **Wheeler Farm Excursion** – Meet Jon at the Nature Center for a short drive to the Wheeler Farm to view some spectacular geologic features and wildflowers. Carpooling is recommended. This will be a moderately strenuous 2-mile roundtrip hike to a natural bridge and shallow but beautiful waterfall. Wear sturdy shoes or boots and bring along some water.

Sunday, April 7th

- 9:30am **Lost Creek Wildflower Ramble** – Meet Stuart at the Nature Center for a drive to the Lost Creek Cave parking area. Carpooling is recommended. There will be plenty of flowers to observe as well as other beautiful scenery.
- 1:30pm **Wildflower Slideshow** – Meet Jon at the Nature Center for a photographic tour of our area wildflowers.



Cool Nature Fact

Do you know that blood root gets its name from the red-orange dye produced by the root? Native Americans and early settlers used this plant to dye clothing and other objects. Blood root flowers are among the first to appear in late March.

Cultural history is one of the many topics which may be discussed in the Fall Creek Falls 2½-day or 5-day Environmental Education Program for school groups. For more information, contact the Nature Center (423) 881-5708.



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